

### **PYD/YPG's link with the terror organization PKK**

- PKK is recognized by the US and EU as a terrorist organization. It has also claimed the lives of thousands of Kurds.
- PYD/YPG is PKK's branch in Syria. This fact was also acknowledged publicly by Former Secretary of Defense Carter, former Director of National Intelligence Coats and many other US officials (see annex). The Congress appointed Syria Study Group also emphasized that the PYD/YPG is the same as the PKK.

### **Atrocities of the PYD/YPG in Syria**

- PYD/YPG currently controls 30% of Syria. Demographics of northeast Syria is as such: 66% Arabs, 27% Kurds, 7% Others
- PYD/YPG indiscriminately oppresses all ethnic and religious groups, including Kurds and Christians. Therefore there is a deep resentment in the local population against PYD/YPG, irrespective of ethnic origin.
- The UN and NGOs have documented PYD/YPG human rights violations in the region.
- Amnesty International reported that they burned Arab and Turkoman villages and tortured opponents. The UN, UNICEF and Human Rights Watch reported abductions and forceful recruitment by the PYD/YPG, of Muslim and Christian children to armed units. UN Secretary-General stressed that PYD/YPG banned Arabic language in hundreds of schools.

### **Turkey's position towards Syrians and Kurds**

- The safety off all Syrians, including Kurds is Turkey's priority.
- Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch Operations allowed 360 thousand Syrians to return to their homes.
- More than 3.6 million Syrians live in Turkey under temporary protection. Turkey has spent more than 40 billion US Dollars for their well-being.
- There are millions of Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin of all political affiliations.
- In the past, Turkey opened its borders to 460 thousand Iraqi Kurds when Saddam Hussein attacked. 200 thousand Kurds came to Turkey when Kobane was attacked by DAESH.
- Currently there are 300 thousand Syrian Kurds who fled from the PYD/YPG have found refuge in Turkey.

### **Turkey's position towards DAESH**

- Turkey is a committed member of the Coalition to fight against DAESH. Turkey has suffered greatly from DAESH terror, and has liberated 1,500 sq miles of Syrian territory, eliminating 4,000 DAESH terrorists.

### **What Turkey wants to achieve?**

- A safe zone free of terrorists.
- Construction of housing, schools, hospitals and infrastructure.
- Safe and voluntary return of Syrians to their homes in the area.

### **Turkey's expectations from the US**

- The US must end its partnership with PYD/YPG. You cannot fight terrorism with terrorists. They will eventually harm US interests and inevitably increase influence of adversaries of the US in the region.
- Terrorist organizations must not be seen as allies. Terrorists cannot bring stability. Turkey, on the other hand, has been a true and staunch ally of the US over the past decades, and will continue to be so. The only natural ally of the U.S. in the region is Turkey and in any case not a Marxist/Leninist terrorist organization.

## **WHO IS "GENERAL MAZLOUM"?**

- His real name is Ferhad Abdi Şahin (codename Şahin Cilo). He has been a **member of PKK for 29 years.**
- He is in the **top wanted terrorists list** as a **senior PKK leader.**
- He is sought for being **in charge of terrorist attacks on border stations** in Hakkari region of Turkey in the early 90's, **which resulted in the killing of 63 Turkish security forces.**
- Until 2012, he was the **leader of TAK**, ("Kurdistan Freedom Falcons") which was **deployed by the PKK in the cities** for conducting large scale **terrorist attacks, including suicide attacks,** targeting civilians and tourists.
- As the leader of the organization, he is responsible for **giving the orders of at least 8 terrorist bomb attacks** in several cities in Turkey between 2005-2012, **resulting in 41 dead and over 400 injured (mostly civilians).**

### **CIA Factbook**

PKK is listed in CIA Factbook page on Syria, under the subtitle “Terrorist groups - foreign based” as follows: (**Last update: October 1, 2019**)

#### **“Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK):**

aim(s): advance Kurdish autonomy, political, and cultural rights in Syria, Turkey, Iraq, and Iran

area(s) of operation: *operational in the north and east; majority of members inside Syria are Syrian Kurds*, along with Kurds from Iran, Iraq, and Turkey.”

#### **Until April 2018:**

area(s) of operation: operational in the north combating ISIL, primarily in the Kurdish-populated region known as Rojava and Syrian Kurdistan; *Salih MUSLIM Muhammad leads Kurdistan Workers Party's Syrian wing, the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD)*; majority of fighters inside Syria are Syrian Kurds, along with Kurds from Iran, Turkey, and Iraq